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Walla Walla District
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Corps, BMCC McNary Dam speaker series starts 15th year, topics to span Pacific Northwest natural, human history

Umatilla, Ore. — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Blue Mountain Community College Early series are co-sponsoring their 15th annual Speaker Series at McNary Dam with their first event set for March 14.

Speakers for this year plan to cover the natural and human history of the Pacific Northwest and the Columbia River Basin, Lewis and Clark, salmon recovery issues and local history. These sessions are held in the theater next to the power house, on the Oregon side of the Columbia River near Umatilla. Each of these Thursday evening sessions begins at 7 p.m. For information, call Park Ranger Pasquale Anolfo (541) 922-2226 or Margaret Saylor at Blue Mountain Community College (541) 567-1800.

This year's program schedule of lecturers and topics includes:

March 14 -- The Trading Blanket of Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery -- Gary Lentz, manager of the Lewis and Clark Trail Park in Dayton, Wash., will explain the trade goods and gifts that Lewis and Clark brought with them on their journey west. He will also discuss some of the equipment the explorers brought with them for comfort and survival during the expedition.

April 4 -- The Long-billed Curlew Return of the Traveler -- Molly Jacky, biological technician with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will give a presentation on the annual return of the long-billed curlew to the Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge.

April 18 -- Nectar Plant Families of the Lower Columbia Basin -- Jean Zach will present a slide show and describe the amazing variety of wildflowers and flowering shrubs which live in the dry shrub-steppe environment of the Colmbia Basin.

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McNary Speaker Series/2-2-2

Apr. 25 -- Is Dam Breaching Necessary for Salmon Recovery Lonnie Mettler, project manager for the Corps' Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Study will give a program focusing on the decline of the salmon on the lower Snake River, and current salmon recovery issues.

May 16 -- Changing the Wildlife Habitat Landscape -- Dave Linehan, McNary Refuge manager and wildlife biologist with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, will explain what can happen when wildlife managers make changes in the landscape by restoring wetlands and riparian areas. He will also talk about what is involved in planning and carrying out changes at refuges on the Columbia and Walla Walla rivers.

May 30 -- The local history of Umatilla Oregon -- A representative from the Umatilla Museum will present a slide show and lecture about some of the historic sites in Umatilla such as the grist mill, the Pioneer Cemetery and other points of interest.

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